

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01683 131131Z

16

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 130847Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8842

S E C R E T SEOUL 1683

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR ASST SEC HABIB FROM AMBASSADOR

E.. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR MOPS US KS PBOR PFOR SUBJECT: FEB 26 YELLOW SEA INCIDENT

REF: STATE 055016

1. I AM BOTH SYMPATHETIC AND IN BASIC AGREEMENT WITH YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT ADM MORGAN'S COMMENTS. HOWEVER, I THINK THAT BOTH HE AND GENERAL STILWELL ARE MORE CHASTENED THAN RECORD WOULD SHOW. YOUR TELEGRAMS AND OUR CONSTANT EFFORTS ARE HAVING SOME POSITIVE EFFECTS WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE ACTIONS. THE JOINT MESSAGE WE SENT AT THE END OF LAST WEEK (SEOUL 1531) REPRESENTS A MARK OF THIS CHASTENING PROCESS AND WAS THE RESULT OF A WEEK OF CONSTANT PRESSURE ON CINCUNC. AS TO FURTHER ACTIONS I AM REASONABLY SURE THAT BOTH GENERAL STILWELL AND MORGAN WILL BE FAR MORE PRUDENT AND FOLLOW CLEARCUT WASHINGTON INSTRUCTIONS. NOT UNSURPRISINGLY, HOWEVER, THEY ARE RELUCTANT TO ADMIT THEY WERE WRONG WITH RESPECT TO FEB 26 INCIDENT.

2. THERE STILL REMAINS A FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM THAT YOU HAVE PUT YOUR FINGER ON AND WE HAVE ALSO FOCUSSED ON -- DO WE EXERCISE OPCON IN A MANNER WHICH WE KNOW KOREAN AUTHORITIES WILL RESENT? IF WE SHADE OUR JUDGMENTS TO MEET KOREAN REQUIREMENTS, THE QUESTION IS WHETHER OPCON

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IS REALLY WORTH PRESERVING.

3. THIS IS BUT ONE OF A NUMBER OF VERY CRITICAL ISSUES
WHICH I WANT TO GO OVER WITH YOU AND OTHERS WHEN I GET
BACK TO WASHINGTON. FOR THE PRESENT, HOWEVER, I THINK
THE SITUATION IS IN HAND TO FUTURE RESPONSES
TO NORTH KOREAN OPERATIONS OUTSIDE TERRITORIAL WATERS.
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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: HIGH SEAS INCIDENTS, YELLOW SEA
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Draft Date: 13 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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